

Year in Review **The Balkans**





Kosovo

NATO and Army involvement in the Balkans increased as the year progressed. After Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic's repeated refusals to stop attacks on Kosovar Albanians, NATO initiated Operation Allied Force in March, using air strikes against targets in Kosovo and throughout Yugoslavia to force Milosevic to withdraw Serb forces from Kosovo.

The supreme allied commander, Europe, GEN Wesley Clark, halted NATO's air operations against Yugoslavia on June 10, after an air campaign lasting 77 days. This decision was made after consultations with the North Atlantic Council and confirmation from Clark that the full withdrawal of Yugoslav forces from Kosovo had begun.

Soldiers from the 82nd Airborne Div. and V Corps led the NATO movement of forces into Kosovo under Operation Joint Guardian on June 13. Approximately 7,000 USAREUR and CONUS-based personnel deployed over the summer to make up the U.S. contingent, Task Force Falcon. Today the 1st Infantry Div. makes up the bulk of forces in TF Falcon. Under command of the assistant division commander, BG Craig A. Peterson, TF Falcon controls one of four NATO-established sectors in Kosovo. An intermediate staging and support base was established at Camp Able Sentry in Skopje, Macedonia, to supply and support the U.S. force.

